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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize a national memorial to commemorate those whose lives were lost to COVID–19 and those who helped the country to recover, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. ESPAILLAT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To authorize a national memorial to commemorate those whose lives were lost to COVID–19 and those who helped the country to recover, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “COVID–19 National  
5       Memorial Act”.

1   **SEC. 2. MEMORIAL.**

2           There is established a memorial located at a des-  
3   ignated location in the Bronx, New York to honor the lives  
4   lost and the heroes who helped.

5   **SEC. 3. ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

6           (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a com-  
7   mission to be known as the “COVID–19 National Memo-  
8   rial Commission” (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
9   “Commission”).

10          (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall consist of  
11   15 members, including the Director of the National Park  
12   Service, or the Director’s designee, and 14 members ap-  
13   pointed by the Secretary.

14          (c) **TERM.**—The term of the members of the Commis-  
15   sion shall be for the life of the Commission.

16          (d) **CHAIR.**—The members of the Commission shall  
17   select the Chair of the Commission.

18          (e) **VACANCIES.**—Any vacancy in the Commission  
19   shall not affect its powers if a quorum is present, but shall  
20   be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

21          (f) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the  
22   call of the Chairperson or a majority of the members, but  
23   not less often than quarterly. Notice of the Commission  
24   meetings and agendas for the meetings shall be published  
25   in local newspapers in the vicinity of Somerset County and  
26   in the Federal Register. Meetings of the Commission shall

1 be subject to section 552b of title 5, United States Code  
2 (relating to open meetings).

3 (g) QUORUM.—A majority of the members serving on  
4 the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the trans-  
5 action of any business.

6 (h) NO COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commis-  
7 sion shall serve without compensation, but may be reim-  
8 bursed for expenses incurred in carrying out the duties  
9 of the Commission.

10 (i) DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission shall  
11 to—

12 (1) not later than 3 years after the date of the  
13 enactment of this Act, submit to the Secretary and  
14 Congress a report containing recommendations for  
15 the planning, design, construction, and long-term  
16 management of a permanent memorial;

17 (2) advise the Secretary on the boundaries of  
18 the memorial site;

19 (3) advise the Secretary in the development of  
20 a management plan for the memorial site;

21 (4) consult and coordinate closely with the  
22 State of New York, New York City, the Bronx Bor-  
23 ough, and other interested parties; and

1           (5) provide significant opportunities for public  
2       participation in the planning and design of the me-  
3       morial.

4       (j) POWERS.—The Commission may—

5           (1) make such expenditures for services and  
6       materials for the purpose of carrying out this Act as  
7       the Commission considers advisable from funds ap-  
8       propriated or received as gifts for that purpose;

9           (2) subject to approval by the Secretary, solicit  
10      and accept donations of funds and gifts, personal  
11      property, supplies, or services from individuals, foun-  
12      dations, corporations, and other private or public en-  
13      tities to be used in connection with the construction  
14      or other expenses of the memorial;

15          (3) hold hearings, enter into contracts for per-  
16      sonal services and otherwise;

17          (4) do such other things as are necessary to  
18      carry out this Act; and

19          (5) by a vote of the majority of the Commis-  
20      sion, delegate such of its duties as it determines ap-  
21      propriate to employees of the National Park Service.

22      (k) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
23      upon dedication of the completed memorial.

24      **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

25      The Secretary is authorized to—

1           (1) provide assistance to the Commission, in-  
2           cluding advice on collections, storage, and archives;

3           (2) consult and assist the Commission in pro-  
4           viding information, interpretation, and the conduct  
5           of oral history interviews;

6           (3) provide assistance in conducting public  
7           meetings and forums held by the Commission;

8           (4) provide project management assistance to  
9           the Commission for planning, design, and construc-  
10          tion activities;

11          (5) provide programming and design assistance  
12          to the Commission for possible memorial exhibits,  
13          collections, or activities;

14          (6) provide staff assistance and support to the  
15          Commission;

16          (7) participate in the formulation of plans for  
17          the design of the memorial, to accept funds raised  
18          by the Commission for construction of the memorial,  
19          and to construct the memorial;

20          (8) acquire from willing sellers the land or in-  
21          terests in land for the memorial site by donation,  
22          purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or ex-  
23          change; and

24          (9) to administer the memorial as a unit of the  
25          National Park System in accordance with this Act

- 1 and with the laws generally applicable to units of the
- 2 National Park System.